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‘The office of President of the Senate has been twice, and the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives thrice filled by members of our fraternity.

‘Fifteen of this bar have been Senators in Massachusetts.

‘The office of Comptroller of the national treasury, that of Secretary of War, and that of Secretary of State, have been held by some of our members.’

We cannot leave this very interesting discourse, without again expressing a strong hope, that it may have the effect of calling forth similar publications in the different capitals and counties of our country. They would be eagerly read by the present generation, and gratefully consulted and used by the next.



2.—1. *The African Repository and Colonial Journal. No. I. March, 1825.* Published by order of the Managers of the Colonization Society. Washington.

2. *The Eighth Annual Report of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States. With an Appendix.* 8vo. pp. 69. Washington, 1825.

THE American Colonization Society has commenced the publication of a periodical journal, with a view of promoting the interests of the Society, and diffusing a knowledge of its objects. The Managers state it to be the particular purpose of this work, to ‘furnish the public with accurate information concerning the plans and prospects of their institution, to give a minute account of its operations, and of the condition and progress of the colony, to communicate any new and interesting intelligence which may be received relating to the geography, natural history, manners and customs of Africa; and to admit into its pages such essays as may be thought calculated to advance the interests of the Colony, or the cause of African improvement, as well as select passages from authors, who have already written on this subject, and important extracts from the reports of such foreign associations, as are making exertions to suppress the slave trade, or relieve the African race.’

A work well conducted for these ends may be made eminently serviceable to the cause, in which the Society is engaged. Ignorance of the actual state of things in Africa, of the character of the natives and resources of the country, is one of the great obstacles against which the friends of colonization have to contend; the want of an enlightened zeal in the noble objects contemplated

is another. The plan of a periodical work is well calculated to remove this ignorance, and inspire this zeal, by presenting the subject repeatedly to the public in its different aspects, and sending abroad a mass of information, as interesting as it is novel, which could not be so conveniently communicated in any other manner. The editor has the whole compass of African history before him, from which to select important facts and draw useful results, as well as passing events to record respecting the slave trade, colonization, and African improvement. With these resources to give it value and interest, the work cannot fail to be worthy of general patronage. It may further be added, that the profits of sale are to be devoted to the purposes of the Colonization Society.

The Eighth Annual Report represents the colony to be in a prosperous condition. Mr Gurley, the Society's Agent, has visited Liberia during the past year, and his account of the state of things there, is highly encouraging. Two agents, the Rev. Mr Boyd and Dr Ayres, were commissioned a year ago to visit the middle and eastern states, as agents for the society. In their report is the following statement.

'A distinguished Member of Congress, from New England, after expressing his disbelief in the practicability of the undertaking, observed, "Gentlemen at the South, have given this subject more thought than I have, and they think differently. It is a matter in which they are more particularly interested; and I am of the opinion, that if they will bring forward any definite proposal to Congress, for which they will hold themselves responsible, and which it is in the power of Congress to grant, they ought to be assisted to a reasonable extent." He concluded by saying, "I will vote for any proposition, under the above restrictions, which Mr Clay or Mr Mercer (both of them being of the Society) will bring forward; and I am fully of the opinion, that the Representatives from the Eastern States will agree with me, in this view of the subject."

'Your Agents, in concluding their Report, beg leave to remark, that, in their opinion, little dependance can be placed upon any effectual or permanent pecuniary aid from the Northern and Eastern Sections of our country; while at the same time, they are persuaded, from what they saw and heard, that if it should please the national legislature to take this subject into consideration, and aid the cause of the Society, it will meet with almost universal approbation.'

We hope the subject will soon be brought in a proper shape before Congress, and we have no doubt, the opinion of the dis-

tinguished member above alluded to, in regard to New England, will be verified.

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- 3.—*Essays on some of the First Principles of Metaphysics, Ethics, and Theology.* By ASA BURTON, D. D. 8vo. pp. 414. Portland, 1824. A. Shirley.

ALTHOUGH much the larger portion of this work is devoted to Metaphysics and Ethics, yet the author tells us that he designs it mainly as an introduction to Theology. To convince us, that he has no favorite theory to support, and no imaginary hypothesis to build up, he affirms at the beginning, that he means to take *facts, experience, and common sense* for his guides. On this foundation he hopes to erect a durable structure, consistent with the nature of things, and in harmony with all the faculties of the mind. He set himself an arduous task, and has labored with diligence to accomplish it; but with what success, we forbear to judge. The truth is, that with a good deal of simplicity of style, and apparently well disciplined habits of thinking, the author has contrived to make a book with very few attractions. He does not want method or perspicuity, two very essential requisites in treating subjects so abstruse and crabbed, as those with which he grapples, but there is a monotony in his way of writing, a sort of prosing formality, a mode of saying things without exciting interest or making an impression, which are heavy obstacles in the way of a reader.

The common metaphysical topics are first discussed, such as the faculties of the mind, the understanding, perception, memory, judgment, conscience, will, and moral agency. Then come ethics and theology, disquisitions on the nature of good and evil, on motives, and that most entangling of all subjects, the decrees and prescience of the Deity, a subject in which so many great minds have been confounded and lost, from the days of St Austin down to the present time. We have, also, an essay concerning a taste for beauty, novelty, and grandeur. The author says, 'some of the essays were written in too much haste, owing to numerous avocations and interruptions.' This is no apology. No man is excusable for writing in haste for the press, and especially on metaphysics. A political harangue, intended to influence an election, may be thrown off as rapidly as the writer chooses, and then pass for what it is worth, and be forgotten. Not so with topics of wide and lasting interest. Mr Burton uses *progress* as a verb, in imitation, we suppose, of our members of Congress.